

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5683

As of February 11, 2009

Title: An act relating to toll penalties for violations of high occupancy toll lane restrictions.

Brief Description: Imposing toll penalties for violations of high occupancy toll lane restrictions.

Sponsors: Senator Haugen.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Transportation: 2/11/09.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Staff: Amanda Cecil (786-7429)

Background: A High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lane Pilot Project is in place on SR-167. This lane is for use by high occupancy vehicles at no cost and to toll payers in single occupant vehicles for a varying price. The price of the toll varies to ensure that the average speed remains above 45 miles per hour.

A violation of the restrictions applicable to HOT lanes is a traffic infraction.

Summary of Bill: The bill as referred to committee not considered.

Summary of Bill (Proposed Substitute): A violation of the restrictions applicable to HOT lanes is a traffic infraction and is also subject to a toll penalty of three times the maximum toll for a single-occupant vehicle. The toll penalty must be deposited into the statewide account supporting the tolled facility.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This will provide additional revenue to the HOT Lane Operating Account and is consistent with how toll violations are handled on the Tacoma Narrows Bridge.

OTHER: When penalties increase, payments tend to decrease, which ultimately leads to less revenue.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Craig Stone, WSDOT.

OTHER: Mellani McAleenan, Board of Judicial Administration.